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FEDERAL BUREAU
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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DDDE-00
	DOEE-00	EUR-01	<u>FBIE-00</u>	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7491

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY HARARE

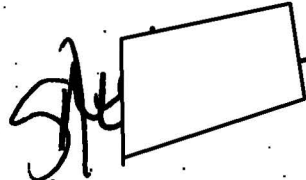
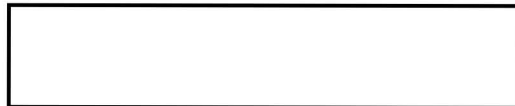
AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

b6 -1 per FBI
b7C -1 per FBI

b3 -1 per FBI
b7E -8 per FBI

Mandela-1294



AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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LONDON FOR YOUNG

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PGOV, SF

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SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA: ANC 49TH NATIONAL
CONFERENCE

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. OVER 3,000 DELEGATES TO THE ANC'S 49TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN BLOEMFONTEIN HEARD THEIR LEADERS CALL FOR A STRONGER, MORE UNITED PARTY TO EMERGE. EVEN RETIRING DEPUTY PRESIDENT WALTER SISULU USED HIS FAREWELL MESSAGE TO STRESS THAT "THE CHALLENGES BEFORE US DEMAND THAT WE REMAIN UNITED." MANDELA CONFERRED THE ISITHALANDWE SEAPARANKOE, THE ANC'S HIGHEST AWARD, ON THE FRAIL AND GAUNT SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, JOE SLUVO. SENIOR ANC OFFICIAL BARBARA MASEKELA TOLD US IT WAS BASICALLY THE ORGANIZATION'S FAREWELL TO THE AILING VETERAN ACTIVIST.

3. CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS ON DECEMBER 19 AND 20 WILL BE HELD BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. THE ORGANIZATION WILL DISCUSS NOMINATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE ORGANIZATION'S SUPREME POLICY MAKING BODY. WHILE IT IS ASSUMED THAT NELSON MANDELA WILL

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BE REELECTED PRESIDENT, AND THABO MBEKI DEPUTY PRESIDENT, THE POSITION OF NATIONAL CHAIRMAN HAS

BECOME AN OBJECT OF CONTENTION. THE POSITION
PROBABLY WILL GO TO AN ETHNIC ZULU, AND THE NAME OF
JACOB ZUMA, A CLOSE ALLY OF MBEKI'S, HAS BEEN
BRUITED ABOUT AS THE FRONT RUNNER. HOWEVER, ZUMA

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CAME IN FOR DISCREET CRITICISM FROM MANDELA FOR THE
PARTY'S POOR PERFORMANCE IN NATAL IN THE APRIL 26-29
ELECTION, LEAVING OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF A
CHALLENGE BY SENIOR COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIAL JEFF
TRADEBE. CYRIL RAMAPHOSA WILL LIKELY BE RE-ELECTED
SECRETARY GENERAL. RELATIONS BETWEEN HIM AND
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN MBEKI APPEAR TO HAVE IMPROVED
VISIBLY SINCE THE FORMER DECIDED NOT TO CHALLENGE
MBEKI FOR THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT POSITION. CHERYL
CAROLUS IS LIKELY THE NEW DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL.
WHILE NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AS OF EARLY DECEMBER
19, IN THE EVENT THAT A SECOND DEPUTY SECRETARY

COSATU WITH THE LABOR UNIONS. THABO MBEKI SPOKE
SOOTHINGLY TO A NEWS CONFERENCE ON DECEMBER 18 OF

THE NEED TO "EDUCATE" DISSIDENTS THAT THE ANC'S
POSITION IS, OBJECTIVELY, THE CORRECT ONE.

7. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT
MANDELA, THABO MBEKI AND CYRIL RAMAPHOSA WERE
DIRECTED AT THE LACK OF COOPERATION FROM MANY OF THE

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WHITE MALE AFRIKANER CIVIL SERVANTS, WHOSE JOBS ARE
GUARANTEED IN THE INTERIM CONSTITUTION. ALL THREE
LEADERS EMPHASIZED THAT JOB GUARANTEES ARE NOT
SYNONYMOUS WITH POSITION GUARANTEES, AND THAT CIVIL
SERVANTS WHO DO NOT SUPPORT RECONCILIATION WILL BE
DEALT WITH.

8. BOTH RAMAPHOSA AND MANDELA AIRED THEIR VIEWS ON WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. RAMAPHOSA MAVED AWAY THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NP AND/OR INKATHA MIGHT DROP OUT OF THE GNU. IN HIS OPINION, REMAINING INSIDE THE GOVERNMENT IS USEFUL TO THE SMALLER PARTIES, SINCE THEY WOULD BE MARGINALIZED IF THEY BOLT. MANDELA TOLD THE DELEGATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY IS NOT SACROSANCT AND COULD CHANGE. (IT WAS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER HE FORESEES CHANGES BEFORE OR AFTER THE NEXT ELECTION IN 1999.)

9. ON A FINAL NOTE, CYRIL RAMAPHOSA TOLD AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST DECEMBER 18 THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD CLARIFY THE ORGANIZATION'S POSITION ON "EXECUTIVE OUTCOMES" PERSONNEL SERVING IN ANGOLA.

LYMAN

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